

MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON JANUARY 17, 2018, AT 6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lou Ann Watson, Beth Dickinson, Fred Busing, Ben Cumber, Renae Roberts

MEMBERS ABSENT:

REPRESENTATIVES:

Councilman Bundy; Recreation Superintendent Tiffany Belt; Interim Parks Superintendent Miguel Pedroza

TRANSCRIBER:

Amy Pearson

MINUTES:

Ben Cumber made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2017 meeting. Beth Dickinson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

RECOGNIZE PERSONS IN THE AUDIENCE:

Renee Forsberg, University of Idaho Extension Office, is the program and personal assistant to educator Brad Stokes and is attending in his absence to discuss the Bee City USA program.

OLD BUSINESS

Scholarship Program

Tiffany said that their department would like to continue to gather donations through reader board signs and water customers offering to round up their bill and see if they receive any positive feedback. She will work on a form to track if the same individuals are using the scholarships/discounts or if a more diverse group is benefiting from the donations. If it becomes the same people consistently using the funds, she will come back to the committee for input on a more formal selection process. Item closed.

CHIF Grant Update

Recreation was awarded \$4,500 for the Fitness Rx programs such as Zumba and Bailando fitness classes free of charge for the calendar year of 2018. They were also awarded \$4,500 for the Heighten your Health programs such as freezer frenzy and other meal prep classes. Recreation was also awarded \$6,100 for the Taste the Powder ski bus.

Tiffany will be attending a meeting on January 24th with St. Luke's to let them how we plan on spending the funds and what programs they will go to. If the lack of snow continues, she will also discuss with them how she intends on reallocate the funds for the ski bus and be sure it is put towards a program of the same value to the community. Carry forward.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Dates

In order to remain available to the community the committee decided to continue to meet the third Wednesday of every month rather than move to quarterly meetings. It was suggested that July and December continue to be bye months. Item closed.

Basketball Update

There were 177 kids that played basketball using all the grade schools in town, plus Hacker, approximately five days a week. This included four nights a week of practice and games on Saturdays. This year the girls and boys were combined and basketball lasted eight weeks. Next season they plan on

separating the girls and boys and will need to use the gyms for 16 weeks. Tiffany's biggest push to the recreation district at their meeting was to not believe there's only a need for one gym in Mountain Home. If they build a center and we can use their gym space then we would be able to lessen our burden on the school district, which puts a hardship on the high school soccer and tennis coaches. Item closed.

Optimist Park Improvements

Parks are in the process of replacing the poles in the pens and then Dopps Rodeo will finish the welding. The park had to be closed down because someone came in and tore up the parking lot and drove all over the grass. The BMX track is also completed and awaiting a lease to be signed for use. Item closed.

GENERAL BOARD DISCUSSION

Miguel gave an update on the Carl Miller gazebo project.

Fred wanted to express his appreciation for the outstanding Christmas decorations in the park this year. He knows that it is a lot of work, but they are getting better and better each year and made town look amazing.

Fred thinks that being involved with the recreation district and running a facility is great, but has always believed that we should see if the school district would want to be involved as well or how that could be accomplished. Tiffany said that it's a matter of time until they need to do some work on the tennis courts and Eastside Park and at that point they will have to go to the school district for assistance. Tiffany has spoken with Mr. Gilbert and they are hoping to meet and develop a partnership of some sort to handle those matters. They are also looking for an after school program to implement within the district so that is something for everyone to collaborate on as well.

Beth said that East Elementary is looking at putting a track in around their big field because they have a walking club on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Some of the kids have already walked up to 25-30 miles this school year. However, and they are beating a path into the grass so they are looking at an alternate walking path but she didn't know if it would interfere with AFAD and the fence where the picnic tables are. Tiffany or Miguel will contact Gene Palmer, Street Superintendent, for his input.

Tiffany researched different parks and recreation software. They have been using ActiveNet since 2006. Their customer service is lacking and we pay per transaction fees and it is expensive. Tiffany has selected a new company that charges a flat rate and has excellent customer service. The City of Hayden has been using it for four years and they love it and don't have a single bad thing to say about it. Tiffany is hoping to get the contract back to present to council at the January 22nd meeting.

Miguel is researching task tracker software to help seasonal and regular employees track how long tasks take and create statistical reports on what was completed throughout the year.

Parks and Recreation are testing a new app called When to Work to schedule all seasonal staff. This allows employees to have instant access to their schedules, allows them to trade shifts and sends automatic notifications. They are testing the app among office personnel and then will test it with the spring soccer officials to see if it suits their needs.

Brad Stokes with the extension office approached Parks and Recreation and would like Mountain Home to consider becoming a Bee City USA and partner with the city. We would like to designate a couple of areas as pollination friendly areas and leave them in their natural habitat for pollinators (bees and butterflies) to pollinate and then move on. Miguel proposed the hillside at Legacy along Haskett Street, the retention pond area at Legacy and Greystone Park.

Renee Forsberg explained that another aspect is to either minimize or be completely pesticide free so that the pollinators are not actively being killed off while we are trying to continue to build pollinator numbers. The designated areas would be left undisturbed. For example, at Greystone which is along the bike path, we would let some of the sagebrush grow and let the natural environment remain untouched for the time being so that the pollinators could nest and pollinate the area. The idea is to keep the habitat as natural as possible so that you're not disturbing the potential pollinators as they continue to thrive. It would also help to beautify some areas such as planting butterfly bushes around the retention pond in Legacy Park.

The other thing that Brad has been tasked with is starting up in 2018 is a Master Gardners program. He will be looking for a plot to potentially have a community garden and/or perennial plant garden that would be another sustainable opportunity for pollinators. This area would be actively run by 4H programs and Master Gardeners which would be a lot easier to manage because it won't be specific to city property. Tiffany explained that while speaking with Brad they had suggested the water wheel as a potential location for the Master Gardener program to head up.

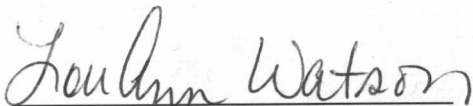
One concern about leaving Greystone as natural habitat along the bike path is that we may likely receive citizen complaints on the weeds. In order to educate the community they would install signage explaining that this is a Bee City USA pollinator friendly zone and that the habitat has intentionally been left alone. Brad is willing to work with us on whatever else we need and to help with community education. Tiffany thought that with this project we might be able to develop fun spin off courses such as a youth bee keeper course as well as other education programs. Item added to next month's agenda for further discussion.

Tiffany gave an update on the swimming pool. Recreation consulted with the majority of the adult aquatics users about holding hydro aerobics in the evening and every single one of them was in favor of making the change. Also, the slide is being removed because three people fell off of it last year. Tiffany researched installing a platform staircase on it would cost an additional \$13,000.00 which the slide and stairs were only originally purchased for \$15,000.00. They are going to store it in case it can ever be used in the future at a new facility. The positive side of removing the slide is that we can actually host competitive meets for the swim team. The high school is also supposed to have a swim team this year and they could potentially host a meet early in the school year. Tiffany also researched a splash pad but it was going to cost approximately \$100,000.00 to build a 25 square foot splash pad area and because we are a municipality, they were going to make us purchase all the splash pad toys. They are also removing the large elm tree which will help keep the elm seeds from backing up the lines.

Lou Ann Watson and Renae Roberts both have terms expiring in February and would like to renew their terms for another four years.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the committee, Ben Cumber made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Fred Busing seconded the motion. All in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 P.M.



Chair

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY 21, 2018 MEETING

OLD BUSINESS

CHIF Grant Update

Optimist Park Improvements

NEW BUSINESS

Bee City USA Application and Resolution

Spring Soccer

Elect 2018 Committee Chairman